

Abstract of the Disclosure

A forensic microscopy system is disclosed wherein a plurality of panoramic views of the sides of a spent bullet or casing may be stored in a computer. To compare one of these stored images with a sample bullet or casing, a computer controlled stepping motor rotates the sample approximately five degrees and an image is taken and stored at each stop. After the full 360 degrees has been accumulated, the images are formed together to create a single whole picture of the entire circumferential surface of the sample. This panoramic strip is then split longitudinally into two halves. The same is done with the stored sample and the "right side" and "left side" of both the strips are matched with their opposite side of the corresponding sample. The software in the computer then allows the user to compare the pattern of lands and grooves on the sample with another stored sample pattern by putting the two images side by side and allowing the user to move one of them in relation to the other. Bullets fired from the same weapon are easily and quickly matched visually. Additionally, the sample bullet or casing can be compared sequentially with any number of other stored sample images.